



# TOWN OF LOS GATOS



FALL 2006

OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Town of Los Gatos Guiding Principles

- Small Town Service
- Community Stewardship
- Future Focus

## Los Gatos Prepared

This fall, the Town began a disaster preparedness campaign encouraging community members to be prepared to be self-sufficient during the time immediately following an emergency. Called “Los Gatos Prepared,” the campaign will focus on self-sufficiency for the first 72 hours after an event such as an earthquake occurs, and from two to four weeks in the event of pandemic flu.

Los Gatos Prepared will educate community members about how best to be prepared during times of disaster, including information about supplies to have on hand, communication plans to get in touch with family and friends, how to make your home safe, and how to plan for the special needs of children, seniors, and pets.

The Town has created partnerships with groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, the faith community, neighborhood watch groups, organized sports organizations, schools, community groups, the Los Gatos Community Foundation, and the Santa Clara County Department of Health Services. The goal is to use these partnerships to help educate all Los Gatos residents and businesses on how to best prepare for disaster. The Town is working collaboratively with these groups to educate the public at events such as the weekly farmer’s market, and through

*“Imagine that you have no electricity, no gas, no water, and no telephone service. Imagine that all the businesses are closed and you are without any kind of emergency services. What will you do until help arrives?”*

— [www.72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org)



## LOS GATOS PREPARED

neighborhood based gatherings like block parties and ice cream socials.

Los Gatos already has a very successful Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) group, comprising residents trained in emergency preparedness and response. Some of these residents who are already CERT trained will help in the disaster preparedness effort by educating members of their neighborhoods on basic preparedness.

More information about the CERT program and a schedule of upcoming training classes is available on the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department website, [www.lgmspd.org](http://www.lgmspd.org), under “Emergency Preparedness.”

More information about the disaster preparedness initiative will be posted on the Los Gatos Prepared website, [www.losgatosprepared.org](http://www.losgatosprepared.org).

## Holiday Events

**Holiday Tree Lighting**  
**December 1, 4 pm**  
*Town Plaza Park*

Sponsored by the Town and the Los Gatos Community Foundation, this annual event is the official kick-off to the Los Gatos holiday season. It is so much fun, Santa Claus usually makes time in his busy schedule to attend. This year, it is rumored that he will come at 6 pm, and stay one hour for photo opportunities. For more information, contact the Clerk Department at (408) 354-6834, or visit the Town’s website at [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov).

**Holiday Parade**  
**December 2, 11 am**  
*Downtown*

This Los Gatos tradition is celebrating its golden anniversary this year! The 50th Annual Children’s Christmas and Holiday Parade will be held on the first Saturday in December. Bands, floats, youth groups, horses – and, of course, Santa Claus – will make it a real hometown parade and holiday celebration. It is sponsored by the Los Gatos Lions Club, Los Gatos-Sar atoga

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photo by Ken Benjamin



The *Town of Los Gatos Vista* is published by the Town of Los Gatos Community Services Department. Your comments are welcome.

Send your comments to:

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[community@losgatosca.gov](mailto:community@losgatosca.gov)

## News Views

### Sanitary Sewer Maintenance

Sanitary sewer line maintenance in Los Gatos is the responsibility of the West Valley Sanitation District, which owns the underground public sewer system. You may report sewage overflows or other problems to the District office at (408) 378-2407. For night, weekend, and holiday emergencies, telephone (408) 299-2507. Backups in the home are the responsibility of the homeowner. More information is available on the District's website, [www.westvalleysan.org](http://www.westvalleysan.org).

### Preparing for Winter Storms

Town maintenance staff prepares for upcoming storms by clearing debris from ditches, culverts, and storm drains in advance of the rainy season. This work is important, because a drainage pathway

blocked by leaves or other debris may cause an overflow or flooding in neighborhoods.

You can help your local drainage system by sweeping or blowing leaves and debris away from the gutter, and placing them in your yard waste container for collection. Piles of leaves should not be left in the street for the street sweeper, as it is not designed to collect large volumes of leaves. If you have a landscaping crew do your gardening, please let them know that you would like the yard waste disposed of properly; in your yard waste container.

### The New KCAT15

KCAT15, Los Gatos's community access station since 1983, will be launching a new look and station programming in November 2006. Through a unique partnership with Los Gatos High

School and the Town, KCAT15 has been a community resource for local programming and information for the communities of Los Gatos and Monte Sereno, and provides video production training and public service announcements. Visit KCAT15 at [www.kcat.org](http://www.kcat.org) to learn more about KCAT and featured programming, or how to become involved!



## Beat Colon Cancer

### True or False?

*The risk of dying from cancer in the U.S. is increasing.*

According to the American Cancer Society, 68% of respondents to a recent poll answered "true." The ACS says that it is true that the actual number of people who are diagnosed and who die of cancer each year has indeed grown – because the U.S. population is growing larger, and is aging. Cancer is more common among the elderly, so more cases are to be expected as the average age of the U.S. population increases. But, a closer look at the numbers by age group shows the cancer risk for Americans is actually dropping.

### Reality

The risk of being diagnosed with cancer and the risk of dying of cancer have decreased since the early 1990s. Fewer than half the people diagnosed with cancer today will die of the disease. Some are completely cured, and many more people survive for years with a good quality of life, thanks to treatments that control many types of cancer.

For example, more than 90% of patients diagnosed with early-stage colorectal cancer survive five years after their diagnosis. Regular screening can help find the disease early, when it is easier to treat. Screening can even prevent the disease by finding colon growths, called "polyps," that can then be removed before they become cancerous.

### What You Can Do

The American Cancer Society recommends that everyone age 50 and older talk to their doctors about colorectal cancer screening and find out which test is best for them. A wealth of information about the prevention, detection, and treatment of colorectal cancer, and other types of cancer, is available on the ACS website, [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). They even have a colon cancer screening reminder tool, which will send you an email when it is time for your next screening. According to the ACS, nearly 30,000 American lives could be saved each year if everyone age 50 and older were tested for colorectal cancer.

## Get Involved: Join A Commission!

The Town has a number of volunteer commissions, boards, and committees whose purpose is to act in an advisory capacity to the Town Council. If you would like to get more involved in your community, or want to become more familiar with municipal government, this is your opportunity.

Participation on a commission, board, or committee is a satisfying and challenging experience, as well as a significant responsibility. It provides an opportunity to become intimately familiar with the operating policies and

challenges of municipal government in general, and of a specific department. It personifies citizen participation in policy determination, and it allows commissioners the opportunity to play a vital role in the communication process between citizens and elected representatives. As a member of one of the Town's commissions, boards, or committees, you can focus upon community needs that require your understanding, dedication, enthusiasm, vision, and experience.

### Community Services Commission

One example of the Town's commissions is the Community Services Commission. The members of this commission advise the Town Council on issues concerning the housing and human service needs of residents of all ages. They also maintain collaborative relationships with public and private agencies supporting programs in those fields. There are

nine members; seven adults and two high school students. You are welcome to come to any of the Commission's regular meetings, held on the third Thursday of every month at 4:30 pm at the Neighborhood Center, 208 East Main Street. You may verify the date, time, and agenda of a meeting by calling the Community Services Department at (408) 354-6820.

### How to Get Involved

For more information about all of the Town's commissions, boards, and committees, visit the Town's website, [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), and click on "Boards, Commissions, and Committees" in the "Government" tab. There you'll find information about each commission, and a list of current vacancies. Applications and more information are also available in the Clerk Department, at 110 East Main Street. You can reach the Clerk Department by phone at (408) 354-6834.

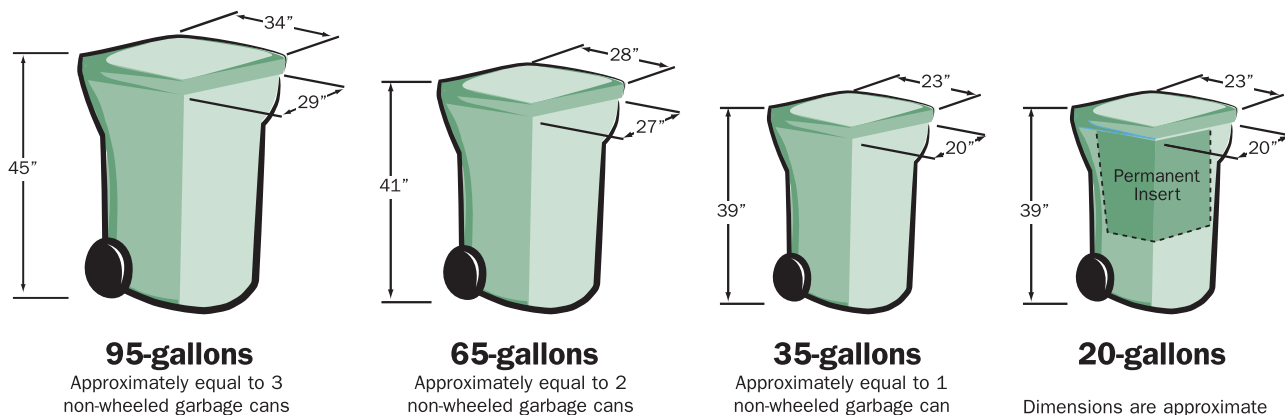
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# New Solid Waste Services



## CONTAINER SIZES



*Courtesy of West Valley Collection and Recycling*

Beginning March 1, 2007, a new company will provide solid waste and recycling collection services to Los Gatos residents and businesses: West Valley Collection and Recycling. West Valley Collection and Recycling is a joint venture of Green Waste Recovery and GreenTeam of San Jose, formed especially to serve the West Valley area. West Valley Collection and Recycling will replace Green Valley Disposal Company, a subsidiary of Waste Management Inc., as the local trash hauler.

### New Services

The new contract will include some changes in the services that Los Gatos receive. These service changes are designed to aid in managing costs and in improving the quality of service. The services provided by West Valley Collection and Recycling will include:

- Fully-automated collection of trash, recyclables, and yard waste at the curb. “Backyard” service will no longer be available, except for disabled customers.
- Company-provided containers for trash, recyclables, and yard waste at no extra charge.
- Commingled recycling; all recyclable materials go in one container. No more sorting items between three small bins.
- “Lifeline” rate for income-eligible households. If you are eligible for other utility subsidy programs, such as PG&E’s CARE program, or AT&T’s Lifeline service, you are eligible for a reduced rate on your trash bill.
- List of recyclable materials expanded to include textiles. All currently accepted recyclable materials will continue to be accepted, including

newsprint, mixed paper, aluminum, steel, plastics labeled #1 through #7, aseptic containers, plastic film, used oil, and used oil filters.

- Residential customers may dispose of up to three 95-gallon carts of green waste each week for no extra charge. That is equivalent to nine standard 32-gallon garbage cans!
- A permanent drop-off center for safe, free disposal of e-waste, batteries, oil, and paint. Residents may drop off material at Green Team of San Jose’s facility at 625 Charles Street in San Jose.

### New Containers

Residential customers may choose the size and number of containers that they would like for trash, recycling, and yard waste.

- For Recycling: 35 gallons, 65 gallons, or 95 gallons
- For Yard Waste: 35 gallons, 65 gallons, or 95 gallons (up to three containers)
- For Garbage: 20 gallons, 35 gallons, 65 gallons, or 95 gallons

West Valley Collection and Recycling has already sent out container selection cards to all residential customers in Los Gatos. If you don’t return a card, you will automatically receive a 95-gallon recycling cart, a 35-gallon garbage cart, and no yard waste cart. If you did not receive a card, please contact West Valley Collection and Recycling at (408) 283-9250.

### Who to Contact

If you have any questions about the new collection services, call West Valley Collection and Recycling at (408) 283-9250. Or, visit its website at [www.westvalleyrecycles.com](http://www.westvalleyrecycles.com).

## FAQ

### Q. When will I get my new carts?

**A.** In January or February 2007. Cart delivery dates will vary by neighborhood.

### Q. What will happen to my old cans and bins?

**A.** You may keep your old set of three recycling bins for your own use, or you may set them out at the curb to be recycled. You may do the same with any trash cans you purchased. If you have a trash can you are renting from the current company, they will make arrangements to collect it. If you have a wheeled yard waste cart, you can keep using it.

## Fall Cleanup

Green Valley Disposal Company will be holding its annual Fall Cleanup collection November 6 through 17. This special collection is an opportunity for residents to dispose of an unlimited amount of trash at no additional cost.

If your usual trash collection day is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, then you may set out items for the Fall Cleanup on your usual day during November 6 through 9. If your usual trash collection day is Friday, you may set out items for the Fall Cleanup on November 17. Please be sure that your items are at the curb by 6 am. Also, to help drivers keep trash and recyclables separate, make sure that your recyclables are clearly separated from Fall Cleanup items.

### What Can I Set Out?

Fall Cleanup collection is limited to normal household waste; commercial waste will not be accepted. The maximum weight of any one item is 70 pounds. You may set out waste in any of the following containers:

- 32-gallon trash cans
- 32-gallon plastic bags
- Secured cardboard boxes
- Tied bundles no larger than 2' x 2' x 2'

### Restricted Items

The following items can not be accepted during the Fall Cleanup:

- Dirt
- Rocks or concrete
- Tires
- Mattresses
- Large pieces of furniture
- Refrigerators and other large appliances
- Paint and other hazardous waste
- Electronics, including televisions and computer monitors
- Piles of loose materials

Bulky items not included in the Fall Cleanup can be collected by Green Valley for a fee. For rate information or to schedule a collection date, call Green Valley at (408) 354-2100, or visit [www.greenvalley.com](http://www.greenvalley.com). For information on how to safely dispose of household hazardous waste, please call the Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at (408) 299-7300.

### For More Information

You will receive a flyer in the mail from Green Valley with information about the Fall Cleanup. More information will also be available on Green Valley’s website, [www.greenvalley.com](http://www.greenvalley.com), and from Green Valley customer service, (408) 354-2100.

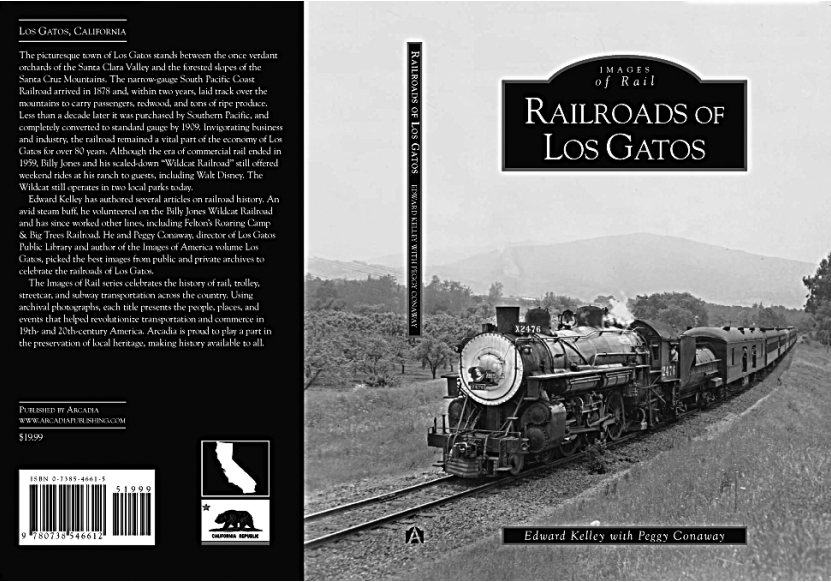
We encourage you to recycle all recyclable items. The Recycling Hotline has information on where to recycle items that are not included in your weekly curbside recycling program: [www.recyclestuff.org](http://www.recyclestuff.org) or (800) 533-8414.

# New Local History Book

**I**mages of Rail – Railroads of Los Gatos is the title of a new local history book focused on the railroading history of Los Gatos. The book is co-authored by Edward Kelley, a former Los Gatan who is currently an industrial design major at San Jose State University; and Library

Director Peggy Conaway. In addition to his studies, Kelley works on several steam-operating railroads, including the Billy Jones Wildcat Railroad in Oak Meadow Park, where he started volunteering at age 13. The book will feature more than 200 period photographs, some of them

rare images, of Los Gatos's colorful railroading history. Legendary railroader Billy Jones is featured extensively in the book, along with many others who worked on local railroads during the eras of the South Pacific Coast and the Southern Pacific. In 1878 the first wood-fired, cinder-belching steam locomotive arrived in Los Gatos on rails just three feet wide. For more than 80 years the railroad played an important role in the economy and culture of Los Gatos. From the beginning, the sights, sounds, and romance of the rails delighted those who witnessed the trains rolling through town. Although the era of commercial rail ended in Los Gatos in 1959, and the depot was demolished in 1964, the experience of riding behind a real steam locomotive can still be had locally, and the excitement of railroading lives on. A celebration of the new book will be held on December 7 in the Town Council Chambers. More information will be on the Town's website, [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), as it becomes available.



## Children's Library Programs

**T**his fall and winter, the Library is hosting lots of fun programs for kids and their families. All programs will be held at the Library, 110 East Main Street. No advance reservation is required. For more information about these programs, call the Library at (408) 354-6891 or visit the Library's website at [library.losgatosca.gov](http://library.losgatosca.gov), and click on "Kids' Page." Please help the Library to offer satisfying programs for children by honoring the suggested age range for each event.

### Masks and Mime with Eliot Fintushel

*Thursday, November 16 at 3:30 pm*  
For ages 5 and up.

### Nick Barone Puppets presents a Holiday Treat Show

*Thursday, December 14 at 3:30 pm*  
For ages 4 and up.

### Come sing along with Lisa Atkinson

*Tuesday, November 7 at 10:30 am*  
For ages 3 to 5.  
*Friday, December 8 at 10:30 am*  
For ages 0 to 2.

### Book Club Schedule

#### 3rd Grade Book Club

*Meets on the last Thursday of every month from 5:30 to 6 pm*  
(no meeting on Thanksgiving Day)

#### 4th Grade Book Club

*Meets on the last Thursday of every month from 3:30 to 4 pm*  
(no meeting on Thanksgiving Day)

#### 5th Grade Book Club

*Meets on the last Thursday of every month from 4:10 to 4:40 pm*  
(no meeting on Thanksgiving Day)

#### 6th and 7th Grade Book Club

*Meets on the last Thursday of every month from 4:50 to 5:20 pm*  
(no meeting on Thanksgiving Day)

### Storytime Schedule

#### Mother Goose storytime

*Fridays at 10:30 am*  
For ages 0 to 2.

#### Toddler storytime

*Mondays at 10:30 am*  
For ages 2 to 3.

#### Preschool storytime

*Tuesdays at 10:30 am*  
For ages 3 to 5.

#### Books Together

*Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3 to 5 pm*  
All ages welcome.

#### Teens Read to Kids

*Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm*  
All ages welcome.

## Forbes Mill Annex

The Forbes Mill Annex houses the History Museum of Los Gatos, located at 75 Church Street. The Annex is the front section and all that remains of Forbes Mill. Forbes Mill was built in 1854 as a flour mill; the Annex was built in 1880 for additional storage. It is on the National Register of Historic Places (1978) and the California State Register of Historic Places (No. 458), and is a Santa Clara County Point of Historical Interest (No. SCL-3784) and a Los Gatos-Saratoga Realtors Association Historical Landmark. For more information, visit the Museums of Los Gatos website, [www.losgatosmuseum.org](http://www.losgatosmuseum.org), and click on "History Museum."

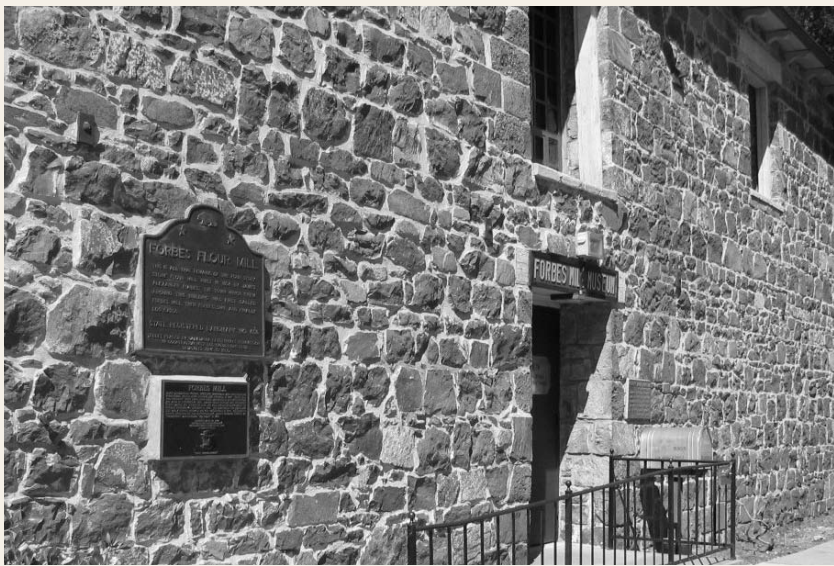


photo by Bob Bortfeld



# Senior Center News

The Los Gatos Senior Center is located in the Neighborhood Center, at 208 East Main Street. It is a gathering place for local seniors. The Center is staffed by the Town's Senior Coordinator and senior volunteers eager to assist you with questions about services, programs, and activities geared to seniors. If you or someone you love is a senior, we invite you to stop by for a cup of coffee and a tour of all the Senior Center has to offer.

Following is just a sample of the activities planned for this fall and winter:

### Dinner Club

Do you love good food, but you hate to go to restaurants by yourself? Join the Senior Center Dinner Club! The Dinner Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, for a no-host dinner at a local restaurant. Club members generally live alone, and enjoy the opportunity to get out and enjoy the company and conversation of others. For more information, call the Senior Center.

### Holiday Dance

A Holiday Dance will be held this December at the Neighborhood Center. Live music will be provided by the popular local group The Nob Hill Sounds, and light holiday refreshments will be available. Admission is free, so mark your calendar now to join other lovers of good music and dancing for a holiday celebration.

### Wednesday Movies

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, a top-rated movie is shown in the Neighborhood Center Lounge at 1:15 pm. Admission and snacks are free! Join other film buffs and enjoy your favorites on the huge big-screen television.



### Casino Day Trips

Each quarter, the Senior Center and Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation co-host a day trip to a California casino. The trip leaves the Senior Center at 8 am, and returns at 6:30 pm. The ticket price includes round-trip transportation on a private luxury motorcoach. Call the Senior Center for more information on dates, destinations, and ticket prices.

For more information on any Senior Center activity or service, call the Senior Center at (408) 354-1514. Or, visit the Town's website, at [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), click on "Town Services & Departments," then choose "Senior Center" in the Community Services area.

## Senior Thanksgiving Dinner

**November 18**  
**12 noon to 2 pm**

On November 18, a special seniors-only Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the Neighborhood Center, 208 East Main Street. This free event is a wonderful opportunity for seniors to get together and enjoy a meal prepared and donated by generous local merchants. No reservations are required; just come and enjoy tasty food, good conversation, live music, and a chance at great door prizes. The meal, which includes turkey with all the trimmings, will be served at noon.

## Holiday Events

*Continued from page 1*

Community Education and Recreation, and the Town. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at (408) 354-8700, or visit its website at [www.lgsrecreation.org](http://www.lgsrecreation.org).

**Santa in the Plaza**  
**December 2, 1:30 to 4 pm**  
**December 16 and 23,**  
**12 noon to 4 pm**  
**December 17, 11 am to 3 pm**

**Santa Paws Day**  
**December 3, 11 am to 3 pm**  
*Town Plaza Park*

Following his successful appearances at the Holiday Tree Lighting and the Holiday Parade, Santa will settle down with his elves in Town Plaza Park for some one-on-one time with his littlest fans. Start off the holiday season by visiting Santa on Saturday, December 2 from 1:30 to 4 pm; Saturday, December 16 from 12 noon to 4 pm; Sunday, December 17 from 11 am to 3 pm; and Saturday, December 23 from 12 noon to 4 pm. Back by popular demand, "Santa Paws Day" will be held Sunday, December 3 from 11 am to 3 pm, when you can bring your darling four-footed friend for a special picture with Santa. Bring your camera to record the moment! For more information, contact the Recreation Department at (408) 354-8700, or visit its website at [www.lgsrecreation.org](http://www.lgsrecreation.org).

**Holiday Carriage Rides**  
**Throughout the season**  
*Downtown*

Hear those sleigh bells ringing? Every holiday season, the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce sponsors holiday horsedrawn carriage rides through the downtown. This year, the old-fashioned tradition will have an up-to-date option: reservations may be made online, through the Chamber's website. Reservations will be available for the evenings of December 1 – 3, 8 – 10, and 14 – 23. For more information, or to make a reservation, call the Chamber at (408) 354-9300 or visit its website at [www.losgatosweb.com](http://www.losgatosweb.com).

## About The Flu

Influenza, also called "the flu," is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Influenza is not the common cold. It's serious. Each year, approximately 226,000 Americans are hospitalized with complications from influenza and an average of 36,000 people die from the virus and its complications.

### Vaccination is Key

The best way to prevent this illness is by getting an influenza vaccination each year. While almost anyone can benefit from influenza vaccination, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention especially recommends immunization for those people who have a high risk of developing complications from the influenza virus and for those who are most likely to spread the virus to persons at risk. These target groups are:

- Adults and children with a chronic medical condition such as heart disease, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), weakened immune system, or diabetes
- Children 6 to 59 months of age
- Children 6 months to 18 years of age who are on long-term aspirin treatment
- Women who will be pregnant during the influenza season
- Adults 50 years and older
- Household contacts and caregivers of anyone in a high-risk group, including

of children younger than 6 months of age, who are too young to be vaccinated

- Residents of long-term care facilities and nursing homes
- Health care workers who come in contact with patients

Some people should not be vaccinated or should first talk with their health care provider. These include:

- People with severe allergies to chicken eggs
- People who have had a severe allergic reaction to a past influenza vaccination
- Children younger than 6 months

According to the American Lung Association, the flu season begins each year as early as October and usually peaks in February, but may continue into May. October or November is the best time to get vaccinated, but you can still get immunized in December or even later.

### For More Information

The American Lung Association has a flu education website, [www.facesofinfluenza.org](http://www.facesofinfluenza.org). The site has a wealth of information, including a feature that allows you to find a local flu clinic by ZIP code. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also has information on its website, at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu), including information on different types of flu, such as avian flu and pandemic flu.

# Capital Projects Report

The Town continues its work to upgrade the accessibility of public facilities, so that those with special access needs may enjoy them along with their family and friends. Recent improvements to Parking Lot 5 and the sidewalks along Main Street include better crosswalk ramps and smoother sidewalks. The Library and Neighborhood Center boast wide, automatic doors to allow easy access. The Town’s five-year Capital Improvement Program plan includes installation of improved sidewalk and median ramps throughout Los Gatos, funded by federal Community Development Block Grant funds. For more information about accessibility projects, call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

## Highway 9 Safety

This project will include a variety of improvements along Highway 9, from Los Gatos to Saratoga, to improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety. Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga have joined together on the project; the Town will be the lead agency. Currently in the “permit stage,” the project must first obtain state environmental clearance permits before a construction design is submitted. A public meeting will be held in early 2007 to solicit comments from residents of all three communities on the construction design. Construction is anticipated to begin during the fall of 2007. For more information, send an email to

[hiway9safety@losgatosca.gov](mailto:hiway9safety@losgatosca.gov) or call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

## Wedgewood Avenue Storm Drain

This project will install a storm drain system, curb, gutter, and sidewalks on Wedgewood Avenue to improve pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorist safety, and to provide a proper water runoff system to feed into the storm drain. It is the result of several neighborhood meetings at which residents requested improvements to this roadway due to flood waters overflowing onto the street during storms, high pedestrian and vehicle use, and the lack of sidewalks for pedestrians to access nearby parks. The improvements will be located on the south side of Wedgewood Avenue between Wimbledon Avenue and Mulberry Drive. Construction is planned for this fall, before the winter storm season begins. For more information, send an email to [wedgewoodproject@losgatosca.gov](mailto:wedgewoodproject@losgatosca.gov) or call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

## College Avenue Walkway

This project will remove 1,500 feet of failed sidewalk along College Avenue, repair the adjacent white wooden fencing and its foundation, remove and trim tree roots, and resurface the asphalt pathway. The lower end of the College Avenue walkway is located about 350 feet from

the intersection of College Avenue and Main Street, and proceeds up College Avenue for about 1,500 feet. The walkway serves both neighborhood residents and others who use it to access trails and open space. The work will be funded with a combination of grant and Town monies. For more information about the project, call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.

## Speed Feedback Display Boards

Additional vehicle speed feedback display boards will be installed this fall, to increase safety by helping to slow down traffic on roadways where there is high pedestrian activity. Several of these devices have already been installed, and have been effective in slowing vehicle traffic in the area. Many drivers do not realize they are speeding and slow down once they see their speed displayed. The new boards will be placed at following locations:

- Knowles Drive near Community Hospital
- Oka Road northbound
- Blossom Hill Road near Blossom Hill Elementary School
- Los Gatos Boulevard near Van Meter Elementary School

More information about these and other capital improvement projects is available on the Town’s website, [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov).

# Financial Help with Home Repairs

Since 1976, the Town has provided loans to hundreds of Los Gatos homeowners through its Housing Conservation Program. Funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant program, the Housing Conservation Program provides low-interest loans to income-eligible homeowners, for home repairs which correct housing code violations, alleviate overcrowding, minimize potential fire hazards, and improve health, safety,

accessibility, and home security conditions. Typical repairs include:

- installation of new roof
- installation of grab bars
- installation of smoke detectors
- remodeling of kitchen to meet current building codes
- abatement of any lead-based paint
- securing of water heater
- installation of GFCI outlets

The Housing Conservation Program offers a practical solution to lower income homeowners, particularly seniors and others on fixed incomes, faced with a list of costly home repairs. The program helps residents to stay in their homes when they might otherwise be forced to sell, and contributes to the general safety and attractiveness of Los Gatos neighborhoods.

## Who is Eligible?

Program eligibility is based on federal income limits by household size. In order to qualify, a household’s annual income must not exceed 80% of the median income set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development. The current income limits are as follows:

| Persons in Household | Maximum Annual Income |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1                    | \$59,400              |
| 2                    | \$67,900              |
| 3                    | \$76,400              |
| 4                    | \$84,900              |

## How Do I Apply?

The Housing Conservation Program is administered on behalf of the Town by the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing. For more information, or to obtain an application, contact the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing at (408) 441-4266. More information about the program is also available on the Town’s website, [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov).

Members of the Los Gatos Town-to-Town Katrina Consortium collected signatures at the farmers’ market to send to Pascagoula, Mississippi in celebration of Pascagoula Day, August 27





# Holiday Valet Parking Program

**H**ere it comes again, the wonderful but frantic holiday season. And with this season comes all of the familiar sights, smells, and feelings of the holidays. However, anyone who has ever tried to find parking to do some holiday shopping knows that those familiar sights, smells, and feelings may become the sight of full parking lots, the smell of exhaust, and the feeling that online shopping is the way to go.



This holiday season, for the sixth consecutive year, the Town will provide a free holiday valet parking program to help meet the holiday season's additional parking needs, and to support the local business community by creating a positive shopping experience for their customers. The program will begin Friday, November 24, and run Tuesdays through Saturdays thereafter until December 23, from 9 am to 9 pm each day. The free valet service will be located in Lot 4, located off University Avenue between Grays Lane and Elm Street.

In addition, Police Department “VIPs” (Volunteers In Policing) will serve as “Parking Ambassadors” throughout the holiday season. These Parking Ambassadors will be available to assist shoppers in finding parking spaces, to give directions, and to answer any questions about holiday parking in Los Gatos. Ambassadors will also distribute parking program brochures with a map of designated free parking lots, information about the free valet service, and details about local holiday events. These brochures will also be available at the Chamber of Commerce and many local businesses.

Free self-parking is always offered in the following lots:

- Park Avenue lot, off West Main Street, near the Los Gatos Coffee Roasting Company
- Montebello Lot, on Montebello Avenue, next to the Los Gatos Post Office
- Miles Avenue Lot, on Miles Avenue east of Edelen Avenue
- North Side Lot, on Highway 9 between University and Santa Cruz Avenues
- South Side Lot, on South Santa Cruz Avenue, across from the Toll House Hotel

For more information about parking in the downtown, visit the Town's website, **[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)**, go to "Police Services" in the "Town Services" menu, and choose "Parking & Traffic."

# Volunteer Opportunities Online

You are invited to learn more about the Community Unity program, a grassroots effort to partner local organizations that have planned projects in need of volunteers with available volunteers.

The Town's website is the vehicle for creating these partnerships; the Community Unity page can be accessed at **[www.losgatosca.gov/cu](http://www.losgatosca.gov/cu)**. Here you will find more information about Community Unity, how to register a project and request volunteers, and how to volunteer yourself or your organization. You will also find out how to subscribe to the Community Unity email service, which will alert you when new projects have been listed on the page. This is very similar to the site's "What's New!" service, which sends you an email when any new information has b

Projects listed on the Community Unity site require varying amounts of commitment. Many are one day projects, while others are soliciting board members and on-going volunteers. Whether you are interested in volunteering for a few hours, or in making a much longer commitment, the Community Unity web page is an excellent resource for volunteer opportunities in Los Gatos.



# Talk Back...

We'd like to hear from you. Please send us your comments, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Return to: Town Manager, Town of Los Gatos, P.O. Box 949, Los Gatos, CA, 95031/Fax to: (408) 354-8431/Email to: [manager@losqatosca.gov](mailto:manager@losqatosca.gov).

Calendar of Events

| Date                            | Time            | Event                                   | Location            | Contact        |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------|----------------|
| Mondays                         | 10:30 am        | Toddler Story Time                      | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays   |                 |   |                     |                |
| Tuesdays                        | 3 pm to 5 pm    | Books Together                          | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| Thursdays                       | 10:30 am        | Pre-School Story Time                   | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| Fridays                         | 3:30 to 4:30 pm | Teens Read to Kids                      | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
|                                 | 10:30 am        | Mother Goose Story Time                 | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| October 25                      | 1:15 pm         | Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie        | Neighborhood Center | (408) 354-1514 |
| November 7                      | 10:30 am        | Children's Library Event                | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| November 16                     | 3:30 pm         | Children's Library Event                | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| November 18                     | 12 noon to 2 pm | Senior Thanksgiving Dinner              | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| November 22                     | 1:15 pm         | Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie        | Neighborhood Center | (408) 354-1514 |
| December 1                      | 6:30 pm         | Senior Holiday Dance                    | Neighborhood Center | (408) 354-1514 |
| December 16, 23                 | 4 pm            | Holiday Tree Lighting                   | Town Plaza Park     | (408) 354-6834 |
| December 1 - 3, 8 - 10, 14 - 23 | by appointment  | Holiday Carriage Rides                  | Downtown            | (408) 354-9300 |
| December 2                      | 11 am           | Holiday Parade                          | Downtown            | (408) 354-8700 |
| December 2                      | 1:30 to 4 pm    | Santa in the Plaza                      | Town Plaza Park     | (408) 354-8700 |
| December 3                      | 11 am to 3 pm   | Santa Paws Day                          | Town Plaza Park     | (408) 354-8700 |
| December 7                      | TBD             | Images of Rail - Railroads of Los Gatos | Council Chambers    | (408) 354-6891 |
| December 8                      | 10:30 am        | Children's Library Event                | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| December 14                     | 3:30 pm         | Children's Library Event                | Library             | (408) 354-6891 |
| December 16, 23                 | 12 noon to 4 pm | Santa in the Plaza                      | Town Plaza Park     | (408) 354-8700 |
| December 17                     | 11 am to 3 pm   | Santa in the Plaza                      | Town Plaza Park     | (408) 354-8700 |
| December 27                     | 1:15 pm         | Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie        | Neighborhood Center | (408) 354-1514 |
| January 24                      | 1:15 pm         | Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie        | Neighborhood Center | (408) 354-1514 |
| February 28                     | 1:15 pm         | Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie        | Neighborhood Center | (408) 354-1514 |
| March 28                        | 1:15 pm         | Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie        | Neighborhood Center | (408) 354-1514 |
| April 25                        | 1:15 pm         | Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie        | Neighborhood Center | (408) 354-1514 |

For a complete calendar of Town events, visit the Town website at [www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov), and click on "What's Happening!"



Town of Los Gatos  
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